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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,963	06/15/2001	Akira Murakawa	018775-833	5969

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EXAMINER	
DIVINE, LUCAS	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2624	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/880,963	MURAKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lucas Divine	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 November 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1 – 20 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 15, and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8, 14, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagata et al. (US 5917619).

Regarding claims 1, 8, 15, and 16, Yamagata teaches **an image processor** (102, 106, 105 act as an image processor as controlled by 105, Fig. 1) **which processes a plurality of types of input data** (R, G, B data) **and outputs the processed data to an image output device** (after processing, the data goes to output device 103, see Fig. 1) **comprising:**

a first converter (105, Fig. 1) **which converts all the plurality of different types of input data to output data by processing the input data according to data type** (105 generates R', G', B' which are output data to 106; col. 4 lines 20-45) **and**

a detector (106, Fig. 1) **which detects a specified pattern in the data after converted by said first converter** (receives data from 105 and detects specified patterns for copy-inhibition detection; col. 4 lines 40-50)**, wherein all the data converted by said first converter passes said detector** (all output data from 105 goes to 106)**.**

Regarding claim 2, which depends from claim 1, Yamagata teaches **a controller** (108, Fig. 1) **which controls the output of the data converted by said first converter according to a result of the detection by said detector** (col. 4 lines 52-63)**.**

Regarding claim 14, which depends from claim 8, Yamagata teaches **said printer** (all of the items of Fig. 1 are in printer of Fig. 2) **comprises a printer controller** (units 102, 106, 108, 104, and 105 all work together to control printer) **which controls said printer, and said first converter and said detector are incorporated in said printer controller** (units 102, 106, 108, 104, and 105 all work together to control printer)**.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma (US 6172766) in view of Owada et al. (US 6108098).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 8, 15, and 16, Honma teaches **an image processor** (105) **which processes a plurality of types of input data** (image, graphics [vector data], and text; col. 1 liens 36-39, also discussed with respect to the rasterization blocks) **and outputs the processed data to an image output device** (e.g. 102) **comprising:**

a first converter (401, 402, 407, Fig. 4 together act as a first converter) **which converts all the plurality of different types of input data to output data by processing the input data according to data type** (based on what type of object, the converter converts the data to bitmap data for outputting; e.g. col. 1 lines 63-65; col. 3 lines 54-60; col. 4 lines 14-19 – also col. 3 lines 21-24 [in accordance with an attribute of a drawing object]).

Honma does not specifically teach a pattern detector or a controller for controlling the output based on the result of the pattern detection.

Owada teaches an image processing system wherein there is input image data that undergoes conversion and color conversion (Fig. 15B, other figures throughout) and then afterwards using

a detector (e.g. 7) **which detects a specified pattern in the data after converted by said first converter** (detects patterns after having data converted by 2 and 6 for example; col. 5 line 52), **wherein all the data converted by said first converter passes said detector** (e.g. all data coming from 6 goes through 7 [further, in the combination, the unit 7 of Owada would be placed in between 405 and 406, thus receiving all data that had gone through the converter]).

a controller (21) **which controls the output of the data converted by said first converter according to a result of the detection by said detector** (col. 5 lines 55-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the pattern detection and subsequent output controller of Owada to the system of Honma. The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent users in Honma from printing documents they should not, for example forgeries, bank notes, confidential documents (see Owada col. 1 lines 16-25).

Regarding claims 3 and 9, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **first converter converts the input data to bit map data to be outputted** (rasterization [by units 402/407] generates bit map data).

Regarding claims 4 and 10, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **when the input data is a vector data, said first converter converts the vector data to bit map data by calculation on the vector data** (vector/graphics data inherently converted in 402 based on calculations – processing of data is calculations on the data, taking drawing objects and converting them inherently includes some calculations of a processor) **and when the input data is a text data, said first converter converts the text data to bit map data** (402 binarizes text data into bitmap using display fonts; col. 3 line 33; col. 1 line 39;col. 6 lines 35-44).

Regarding claims 5 and 11, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **an image combiner** (405) **which combines the data converted by said first converter according to data type to generate an image data** (combines the data from the converters for image outputting), **wherein said detector detects the specified pattern in the image data generated by said image combiner** (as discussed above, the detector would be placed between 405 and 406, thus receiving the data from the combiner).

Regarding claims 6 and 12, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **a second converter** (units 403, 408, 404 combine to act as a second converter) **which converts the data converted by said first converter according to data type** (takes in data from first converter [410, 402, 407]) **to data of output colors of an image output device** (col. 3 lines 60-64 and further discussed in col. 4 are more discussions of color conversions performed), **wherein said detector detects the specified pattern in the data which has been converted by said second converter** (as discussed above, the detector would be placed between 405 and 406, thus receiving the data from the second converter).

Regarding claims 7 and 13, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **first converter and said detector are incorporated in a driver for an image output device** (they would all be in 105, the printer driver shown in Figs. 1 and 4).

Regarding claim 14, which depends from claim 8, Honma teaches **a printer controller which controls said printer** (printer must have a printer controller to perform the functional elements of 202 and 203), **and said first converter and said detector are incorporated in said printer controller** (col. 6 line 49, wherein the functions of the system can all be in one apparatus).

Regarding claims 18 and 20, which depend from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches **first converter includes a plurality of types of processors for converting the input data according to the data type** (402, 407).

5. Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honma and Owada as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Douglass et al. (US 5542031).

Regarding claims 17 and 19, which depends from claims 1 and 8, Honma teaches a bit map processor 407 and teaches the vector processing and text processing both occur in 402, thus not specifically teaching that vector and text processing can be done in separate processors.

Douglass teaches that graphics/vector data and character data in a printing system can be processed by separate processors (Fig. 8, 114 and 116).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the normal resolution rater functional unit 402 of Honma could have actually be implemented by two separate physical processors. The motivation for doing so would have been to speed up processing by allowing separate parts of image data to convert concurrently and to increase output quality by performing data type specific processing.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

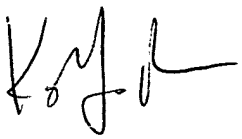
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucas Divine whose telephone number is 571-272-7432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KING Y. POON
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